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Colonial Craftsmen of Pennsylvania

REPRODUCTIONS from our early Pennsylvania Newspapers, of Advertisements of our Carvers, Gilders, Chairmakers, Cabinetmakers and Upholsterers, are continued in this number as installment number three.

In 1769 the art of gilding appears to have been added to that of carving in this city, for HERCULES COURTENAY from London seems to have been among the first to advertise this craft. Possibly this was only for gilding mirrors, for in this city gilding of other furniture apparently did not occur until a much later date.

The partnership of WAYNE and MOORE, afterwards changed to ROBERT MOORE, shows the trend of some of the smaller shops to the Cherry and Race streets district, where much of the excellent work of our early period was executed, although the fashionable shops of the early days were usually south of Market street. It is remarkable how even at this period, a century and a half later, much excellent work is still done north of Market street, although sold at the more fashionable shops under different names.

Joiners' and carpenters' tools seem to have been in demand, for JEREMIAH CRESSON sold them, as well as the favorite woods, walnut and mahogany.

There is a long series of advertisements by JOHN MASON from 1767 to 1780. Beginning apparently in a small way in the Cherry and Arch streets district, he makes several moves but never appears south of Market street.

The attention of those interested in the Colonial decorative arts is called to his price list appearing in his advertisement for 1767, as well as to the fact that he papered rooms. His curious advertisements of 1769 apparently referring to local conditions, are of interest to research workers. His importation of paper from London in 1774, and the fact that he had for sale flowered paper in 1780 during the Revolutionary War will be interesting to those engaged in "period" decoration.

ALFRED C. PRIME.

Hercules Courtenay, *Carver and Gilder, from* London,

INFORMS his Friends and the Public, that he undertakes all Manner of CARVING and GILDING, in the newest Taste, at his House in Front-Street, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets.

N. B. He is determined to be as reasonable as possible in his Charges, and to execute all Commands with the utmost Diligence.

PENNA. CHRONICLE
8/14/1769

Philadelphia, February 16, 1769.

THE Partnership of WAYNE and MOORE, Cabinet Makers, being expired, those who are indebted to said Partnership, are requested to make speedy Payment; and those who have any Accounts against the Partnership, to bring them in for Payment, to ROBERT MOORE, or WILLIAM WAYNE.

N. B. ROBERT MOORE acquaints his Friends, and the Public, that he now carries on the Cabinet and Chair-Maker's Business in the best Manner, and genteelest Taste, at his Work-shop, next but one to the Corner of Key's Alley, in Front-street, above Race-street, in the Shop which, during the Partnership of him and Wayne, they used as a Store, or Show-shop. ¶

PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE
2/23/1769

Feb. 20, 1769.

Robert Moore, Cabinet and Chair-maker,

TAKES this method to acquaint his Friends, and the Public in general, that, the partnership of him and William Wayne being expired, he now carries on the business on his own account, at his shop at the upper end of Front-Street, next door but one to Key's alley, being the same which during the partnership they used as a store or show-shop, where all who please to favour him with their commands; may depend on good sound work finished in a neat genteel taste, by their humble servant, ROBERT MOORE

PENNA. CHRONICLE
2/20/1769

Philadelphia, April 11, 1777.

To be sold by JEREMIAH CRESSON, at the White Skin, in Chestnut-street,

A VARIETY of Joiner's and Carpenter's Tools, Walnut and Mahogany Boards, Planks and Slabs, some Joiner's Work, viz. Chairs and Tables; also Lamp and Skinners Oil, Wool, Leather Breeches, Gloves dressed, Sheep and Buck Skins, &c. ¶

PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE
4/16/1777

JOHN MASON,

UPHOLSTERER,

Living in Elfreith's Alley, between Arch and Race Streets, three Doors above Front ſtreet, and in part of the Houſe with Mrs. Paul, begs leave to inform the Public.

THAT conſidering the ſtagnation of buſineſs, and ſcarcity of caſh, he finds it neceſſary to reduce the ſeveral prices of his work one third part lower than formerly, and in the following manner, viz.

	£.	ſ.	d.
For making a Harrateen Bed, with Cornices, - -	1	5	0
Venetian Curtains for Windows,	0	7	6
Calico Bed, with Cornice, - -	1	2	6
Ditto without Cornice, - -	0	15	0
Making an eaſy Chair, - -	0	15	0
Making a Cover for Ditto, -	0	6	0
Making a Settee, - - -	1	2	6
Putting up a Bed, - - -	0	5	0
Good Sacking Bottoms, - -	0	14	0

Papering rooms at Two-pence per yard, and will engage it to ſtand good; all other work in proportion. And as it is the diſtinguiſhing character of noble and generous minds to encourage the induſtrious Tradeſman, ſaid Maſon flatters himſelf the Public will employ him, as they may depend on having their Work well done, and with the greateſt diſpatch. Their favours will be gratefully acknowledged by their humble ſervant,

JOHN MASON.

N. B. By comparing the above prices with the Upholſterers bills, the public will find the difference.

PENNA. CHRONICLE
7/13/1767

John Maſon, *Upholſterer*,

On the north ſide of Arch-ſtreet, between Front and Second ſtreets;

MAKES and repairs all kinds of Upholſtery Work, at the moſt reaſonable rates, viz. Venetian beds, field beds, tents and markees, canopy beds, ſhips colours, &c. Good ſacking-bottoms for 14s. mattraſſes of all prices, either ready made, or may be had in a few hours notice.

N. B. Mattraſſes are a kind of beds worthy the notice of the Public, for, at this ſeaſon, many perſons receive benefit by ſleeping on them, as they prevent a too great perſpiration, which is ſo prejudicial to health.

Said Maſon is extremely obliged to the public for employing him; and begs the contiuuance of their favours.

PENNA. CHRONICLE
6/13/1768

Mr. GODDARD,

Pleaſe to inſert the following in your next uſeful Chronicle, *and you will oblige your well-wiſher, and perhaps the PUBLIC.*

THIEVES! THIEVES! THIEVES!

THE inhabitants of this city are deſired to ſee that their windows and doors are well ſecured at night, for there are many thieves dodging about; for one robbed my neighbour's houſe a few nights ago, and laſt night, between eleven and twelve, one attempted to rob my houſe, by entering the chamber window; but on hearing a noiſe, I got up, but before I could open the door he jumpt down and ran! Soon after a fellow came by, I ſuppoſe the ſame, for he looked very thief-like; the watch hailed him, and ſaid fellow anſwered, a friend—(to me excepted.)

Now, Sir, as the face is an index to the mind, if watchmen were ſkilled in phyſiognomy they might detect thoſe villains; but, however, as I keep a piſtol well loaded, if they ſhould come again at night, I ſhould be apt to make moon-light ſhine through them; for, Sir, I don't chooſe to have my money taken from me WITHOUT MY CONSENT. Your's,

J. MASON, Arch-ſtreet.

P. S. It's very odd that they ſhould attempt to take from *me*, when there are *others* that get twice as much money for the *ſame kind* of WORK

Auguſt 13, 1768.

PENNA. CHRONICLE
8/15/1768

John Maſon, Upholſterer,

At the CROWN and CUSHION, two doors above Front-ſtreet, in Arch-ſtreet,

MAKES and repairs all kinds of UPHOLSTERY work in the modern taſte, at the moſt reaſonable prices, and has for ſale mattraſs beds of all ſizes, and good ſacking bottoms at 14 s. Plow lines, &c. &c. &c.

Said Maſon is extremely obliged to thoſe gentlemen and ladies who have employed him, and in particular to thoſe who have been kind enough to recommend him, and as theſe kind of favours diſcover a noble and generous mind he thinks they ought not to paſs unnoticed. But he would by no means forget the gentlemen and ladies who pay the caſh as ſoon as the work is done, which, with the continuance of their favours, will be extremely agreable to their humble ſervant,

John Maſon.

P. S. Wanted a hundred weight of good feathers, and a hundred weight of curled hair, for which ready caſh will be given.

PENNA. CHRONICLE
11/28/1768

John Maſon, Upholſterer,

At the CROWN and CUSHION, two doors above Front-ſtreet, in Arch-ſtreet,

MAKES and repairs all kinds of UPHOLSTERY work in the modern taſte, at the moſt reaſonable prices, and has for ſale mattraſs beds of all ſizes, and good ſacking bottoms at 14 s. Plow lines, &c. &c. &c.

Said Maſon is extremely obliged to thoſe gentlemen and ladies who have employed him, and in particular to thoſe who have been kind enough to recommend him, and as theſe kind of favours diſcover a noble and generous mind he thinks they ought not to paſs unnoticed. But he would by no means forget the gentlemen and ladies who pay the caſh as ſoon as the work is done, which, with the continuance of their favours, will be extremely agreable to their humble ſervant,

JOHN MASON.

P. S. Wanted a hundred weight of good feathers, and a hundred weight of curled hair, for which ready caſh will be given.

PENNA. CHRONICLE
11/21/1768

COLONIAL CRAFTSMEN OF PENNSYLVANIA

JOHN MASON, Upholsterer, Prays for LIBERTY to inform his friends and customers, that he has removed his PROPERTY *(if he may be allowed the expression)* to a new built house in Front-street, near Market-street, where he carries on the Upholstery business, in all its branches, and begs for the continuance of their favours. † With the publick's, AND would inform Them that I have for Sale, mattrasses, or wool beds, which are so beneficial to mankind, for when a CONSTITUTION grows weak through inadvertency, or any ways thrown into CONFUSION, these beds are of great use to rest on; therefore I would advise every CONSTITUTION to be provided with one of them. It is generally allowed by physicians, who are the best judges, (and therefore ought to be attended to) that mattrasses, even in winter, are more healthy for the persons who sleep on them, than feather beds; but much more so at this season of the year, and gives a greater spring to the nerves than any other bed can do. Said Mason will work at a very reasonable rate, and will sell the apparatus belonging to beds, and window curtains cheaper than formerly. He is greatly obliged to all those ladies and gentlemen that are so kind as to recommend him, which will ever be acknowledged by their humble servant,

JOHN MASON.

P. S. It has been asserted, as a late paper informs us, that there is not wool enough in America to make each man a stocking, therefore, to render the assertion groundless and false, I wish every man would apply to me for a wool bed.

Said Mason sells good sacking bottoms, for 14s. a piece, and tossel at 4s. a pair, also a variety of shop goods very cheap.

† WILKES and OTIS.

PENNA. CHRONICLE
6/5/1769

JOHN MASON, Upholsterer, PRAYS for LIBERTY to inform his friends and customers that he has removed his PROPERTY, to a new built house in Front-street, near Market-street, on the bank side—where he carries on the Upholstery Business in all its various branches, and at the most reasonable rates, with dispatch, and has for sale matrasses or wool beds.——History informs us that the antiquated heroes slept on straw, and we (fond of extremes) although dangerous, sleep on feathers, now as a medium By Wise Heads is judged the Best, I would propose Wool or Hair; therefore, I hope those Gentlemen that Regard their Health, will sleep on Wool or Hair Beds. Said Mason makes and sells tossels at four shillings a pair, sacking bottoms at fifteen shillings, and has for sale a mahogany desk, and chairs and tables, for which he will take check linen or cash.

Said Mason begs the continuance of his customers favours with the public, which will ever be gratefully acknowledged by their humble servant,

JOHN MASON.

N. B. No WONDER that Liberty is the Common Cry, for if it was not the inanimate creation would cry out against us, for the very flowers, they, when deprived of their Liberty, Choose Death Rather, than be Confined in the softest bosom.——Methinks a Moment's Reflection would Convince those that would Deprive us of our Liberty and property that they are Doing WRONG——for if our Fathers have No Right to Deprive us of our Liberty and property after Twenty-one Years, Certainly our Mother can have No Right after we have enjoyed it near an Hundred Years.

* *Mother Country.*

PENNA. CHRONICLE
8/7/1769

JOHN MASON, UPHOLDER,
At the Corner of Front and Market-streets,

CARRIES on the Upholdstry Business, in all its various branches, and shall be extreamly obliged to those Ladies and Gentlemen that will please to employ him, and they may depend on having their orders neatly and carefully executed.

Said MASON has imported, by the last ships from London, a neat assortment of paper hangings, Strasburg snuff, best superfine 11qr. Flanders ticks, mattrass or wool beds, sacking bottoms, &c. and a curious assortment of TOYS.

N. B. Red Leather gilt Trunks. §

PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE
11/16/1774

JOHN MASON, Upholsterer,
In Race-street, at the north-west corner of Third street, carries on the UPHOLSTERY BUSINESS in all its various branches, viz.

MAKES beds and window curtains, sophas. makes and repairs sacking-bottoms, chair bottoms, &c. papers rooms, and has for sale, flowered paper, sacking-bottoms, bed-cords. &c. &c.

Said MASON is extremely obliged to those Ladies and Gentlemen that have employed him, and begs the continuance of their custom.——Mattrass beds made or repaired on the shortest notice. ¶

PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE
9/27/1780